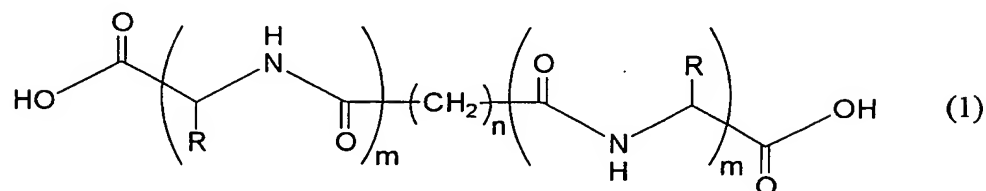


CLAIMS

1. A fine spherical particle having uniform molecular orientation, which comprises a compound represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; n is an integer of 8 to 20; and m is an integer of 1 to 3.

2. The fine spherical particle according to claim 1, wherein the fine particle is evenly oriented in a radial pattern from the center.

3. The fine spherical particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the particle diameter of the fine particle is from 0.01 to 100 μm .

4. A process for producing the fine spherical particle according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which comprises immersing a substrate having hydrophilicity in an aqueous solution of a salt of the compound represented by formula (1) to precipitate the fine particle under an acidic atmosphere.

5. The process for producing the fine spherical particle according to claim 4, wherein the salt of the compound represented by formula (1) is an alkali metal salt.

6. The process for producing the fine spherical particle according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the substrate comprises glass, metal, silica, mica, ceramic, earthenware, porcelain, plastic, or a composite material thereof.

7. The process for producing the fine spherical particle according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the fine particle is precipitated under an acidic atmosphere of pH 5 to 6.

8. A spherical microcapsule in which a fine particle of a hydrophilic core substance are encapsulated inside the spherical body of the compound represented by formula (1) having uniform molecular orientation.

9. The spherical microcapsule according to claim 8, wherein the spherical microcapsule has a particle diameter of from 0.01 to 100 μm .

10. A process for producing the spherical microcapsule encapsulating a fine particle of a hydrophilic core substance according to claim 8 or 9, which comprises immersing a hydrophilicity-treated substrate in an aqueous solution in which a metal salt of the compound represented by formula (1) and the hydrophilic core substance are dissolved; and allowing the aqueous solution to stand under an acidic atmosphere for precipitation.

11. The process for producing the spherical microcapsule according to claim 10, wherein the metal salt of the compound represented by formula (1) is an alkali metal salt.

12. The process for producing the spherical microcapsule according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the acidic atmosphere is a weakly acidic atmosphere of pH 5 to 6.

13. The process for producing the spherical microcapsule according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the substrate is selected from glass, metal, silica, mica, a ceramic, earthenware, porcelain, plastic, and a composite material thereof.